

IN THE CLAIMS

1-157 (Cancelled)

158. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 wherein for at least one of the rounds, the processing device is capable of being configured such that the predetermined criterion is a specified percentage difference between the offers in that round.

159. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 158 wherein the processing device is configured to select a specific percentage difference amount.

160. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 158 wherein the percentage difference is from about 5% to about 50%.

161. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 158 wherein the processing device is configured to use the same percentage difference for one or more of the rounds.

162. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 wherein for at least one of the rounds, the processing device is operable to determine whether the offers satisfy the criterion for that round by determining whether the offers differ from one another by a specified amount or percentage.

163. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 162 wherein the processing device is controllable to select a specified amount.

164. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 162 wherein the processing device is controllable to use the same specified amount for one or more than one round.

165. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 wherein for at least one round, the processing device is operable: a) to determine whether the offers satisfy the criterion for the round, by multiplying one of the offers by a predetermined factor to produce a result; b) to compare that result with the offer of a party on the opposite side of the transaction; and c) to determine whether the outcome of the comparison falls within a predetermined range.

166. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 165 wherein the processing device is operable to select a predetermined range within which offers need to be to produce a binding bargained payment.

167. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 wherein for at least one round, the processing device is operable to calculate a criterion which the offers of the parties

must meet to produce a binding bargained payment as a function of at least one of the offers in that round.

168. (Canceled)

169. (Canceled)

170. (Canceled)

171. (Canceled)

172. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 configured such that the number of rounds is limited to three.

173. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 wherein the processing device is operable to change the predetermined criterion used in one or more of the rounds.

174. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 173 wherein further ~~comprising~~ at the processing device which is further configured to receive a request from at least one of the parties to change the predetermined criterion for the round and thereafter changes the criterion for that round.

175. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 191 wherein the processing device ~~changes is configured to change~~ is configured to change how the binding bargained payment is calculated as a function of at least one of the offers in that round.

176. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 further comprising a login procedure whereby only parties with proper authentication data to use the system can log in.

177. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 176 wherein the processing device ~~provides is configured to provide~~ is configured to provide a response to the parties as to whether or not the offers satisfy the criterion only upon entry of authentication data.

178. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 191 which is configured to ~~communicates~~ communicate with at least one of the first and second parties through a network.

179. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 178 linked to the Internet to communicate with said first and second parties via the Internet.

180. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 wherein the offers are monetary.

181. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 180 wherein the monetary offers are in different currencies, and the system further includes a currency converter to convert the monetary offers into a common currency in order to compare the offers thereof.

182. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 191 ~~which further comprises~~ comprising: the processing device being configured to for sendingsend one or more predetermined messages to the parties when the outcome of the comparison of offers fails to satisfy the predetermined criterion but is within a predetermined acceptance limit.

183. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 182 ~~which further comprises~~ comprising: the processing device being configured for sending a facilitating message.

184. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 191 wherein the system is configured to allow at least one party to submits-submit as input signals a plurality: of offers prior to the completion of the first round.

185. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 191 wherein the processing device which receives data ~~accepts~~ is configured to accept, before the completion of any given round, a plurality of offers by at least one party, such that one such offer is compared by the processing device in the present round and each such other offers are compared by the processing device in sequential rounds.

186. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 191 which further comprises: an input signal from at least one party to the transaction to request a power round, if no binding bargained agreement is reached after an agreed upon number of rounds has failed to generate such agreement.

187. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 186 wherein the power round criterion is the same criterion used in one of the preceding rounds.

188. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 186 wherein the power round criterion is different from the criterion of one or more of the preceding rounds.

189. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 186 wherein the power round is activated by the purchase of the power round.

190. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 186 wherein the processor is operable to change how the binding bargained payment is calculated as a function of at least one of the offers in a given round.

191. (Currently Amended) A computerized system capable of multiple rounds for automated bargaining to achieve a binding bargained payment for a transaction comprising:

at least one processing device;

processor accessible storage;

and a computer executable program.

~~an processing device~~input capable of receiving data as input signals wherein the input signals comprise one or more offers for sale from at least one first party and one or more offers to purchase from at least one second party;

~~a processing device~~an input for inputting at least one predetermined criterion into the system against which the parties offer for sale and offer to purchase are compared on a round by round basis to determine if binding bargained payment has been achieved;

~~a the~~ at least one processing device operable to, when executing the program:

analyze said data and compare each offer for sale and each offer to purchase in a round by round manner beginning with the first round if the round offers for sale and purchase satisfy the predetermined criterion[.];

~~a processing device~~

~~to~~ notify both parties that the comparison analysis has occurred and either has produced an agreement on a binding bargain payment that is calculated as a function of at least one of the offers in the first round or it indicates that no agreement was produced in that round;

when no binding bargained agreement has been produced in the first round then said ~~processing device~~system is configured to compares a second offer from each party said second offers being transmitted by the input signals to said ~~processors~~system;

~~the processing device~~ analyzes the next round of offers for sale and purchase by comparing those offers to determine if they satisfy the predetermined criterion for that round;

~~a processing device~~ ~~to~~ notify the parties that the comparison analysis has produced a binding bargained payment calculated as a function of at least one of the offers for that round or that it has not produced an agreement:

the computerized system is configured so that:

(a) the processing device ~~for inputting~~ is configured such that the at least one predetermined criterion inputted into the system can change from one round to another round and said processing device which analyzes the data compares the offers of the parties against the criterion in a round by round manner; and

(b) during a given round the system does not given any indication of the amount of any offer from one party for that round to the other party.

192. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 191 which further comprises: ~~a~~ the processing device being configured to send ~~which sends an inquiry~~ to the parties inquiring whether one or more of the parties wants to engage in a power round and if an affirmative answer is received by the device the device ~~applies~~ is configured to apply either the same or a different criterion to the power round.